

Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 L-03 LS-01 EB-11 CG-00 DOTE-00 DRC-01 /060 W

----- 031473

R 242023Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9428

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 12666

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, US, FR

SUBJECT: OMEGA AGREEMENT WITH FRANCE

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: QUAI HAS INFORMED US THAT SLIPPAGE IN DELIVERY BY U.S. OF OMEGA EQUIPMENT TO LA REUNION WILL RESULT IN DELAY IN OPENING OF STATION AND INCREASE IN COST TO GOF. ASSUMING FACTS ON WHICH QUAI BASED ITS INTERVENTION ARE ACCURATE, WE BELIEVE USG SHOULD TAKE SPEEDY ACTION TO CORRECT DELIVERY DELAYS. REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS FOR RESPONSE TO QUAI. END SUMMARY.

2. QUAI OFFICIAL (DES LONGCHAMP OF PACTS AND DISARMAMENT OFFICE) GAVE TO EMBOFF ON MAY 22 AN AIDE MEMOIRE DATED MAY 20 DEALING WITH PURPORTED DELAY IN DELIVERY BY UNITED STATES OF OMEGA EQUIPMENT (PYLON AND ANTENNA) TO SITE AT LA REUNION. AIDE MEMOIRE NOTES THAT IT HAD BEEN ASSUMED THAT THIS EQUIPMENT WOULD BE DELIVERED BY THE US TO LA REUNION NO LATER THAN MAY 1974, SO THAT THE STATION COULD BEGIN OPERATION AT THE BEGINNING OF 1975. NOW, HOWEVER, IT SEEMS THAT THIS EQUIPMENT WILL NOT BE DELIVERED BEFORE APRIL 1975, AND THAT THE OPERATION OF THE OMEGA STATION WILL BE DELAYED BY ONE YEAR BECAUSE OF SLIPPAGE IN DELIVERY OF EQUIPMENT. THIS DELAY WILL INCREASE THE COST TO THE GOF BY 1.4 MILLION FRANCS. MOREOVER, DELAY IN DELIVERY BEYOND APRIL 1975 WOULD RISK A SECOND YEAR OF DELAY IN STATION'S OPERATION AND

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AN EVEN GREATER COST TO THE GOF. THE AIDE MEMOIRE CON-

CLUDES BY ASKING THAT THE US EMBASSY INTERVENE WITH WASHINGTON TO OBTAIN THE HIGHEST PRIORITY FOR THE ACQUISITION OF THE MATERIAL, SO THAT IT CAN ARRIVE AT LA REUNION NO LATER THAN APRIL 15, 1975.

3. KEY PORTIONS OF TEXT FOLLOW: "MALHEUREUSEMENT, IL EST APPARU QUE LE PYLONE ET LES ELEMENTS DE L'ANTENNE NE POURRONT ETRE LIVRES PAR LES ETATS-UNIS A L'ILE DE LA REUNION, DANS LA MEILLEURE DES HYPOTHESES, QU'A PARTIR DU MOIS D'AVRIL 1975, ENTRAINANT, DES A PRESENT, UN RETARD D'UN AN DANS LA MISE EN SERVICE DE LA STATION ET UNE AUGMENTATION NON NEGLIGEABLE DE LA PARTICIPATION FRANCAISE DE 1 MILLION QUATRE CENT MILLE FRANCS DONT LE DIRECTEUR DE PROGRAMME FRANCAIS A FAIT PART AU COMMANDER RICHARDSON, OMEGA PROJECT MANAGER, PAR LETTRE NO 473 134 STCAN DU 20 MARS 1974, EN DEMANDANT QU'ELLE SOIT SUPPORTEE PAR LE GOUVERNEMENT DES ETATS-UNIS.

"OR, IL SEMBLERAIT QUE SEUL LE MARCHE DE L'ACIER SPECIAL NECESSAIRE A LA REALISATION DU PYLONE VIENNE D'ETRE NOTIFIE PAR LA MARINE AMERICAINE; LE MARCHE DU PYLONE ET DES ELEMENTS DE L'ANTENNE N'A PAS ENCORE ETE PASSE. CECI REDUIT CONSIDERABLEMENT LES CHANCES D'AVOIR UNE LIVRAISON DU PYLONE A L'ILE DE LA REUNION EN AVRIL 1975 ET RISQUE D'ENTRAINER UNE DEUXIEME ANNEE DE RETARD ET UNE AUGMENTATION FINANCIERE DE LA PARTICIPATION FRANCAISE BEAUCOUP PLUS IMPORTANTE.

"LE MONTAGE DU PYLONE DEVANT DURER 6 MOIS ET SE TERMINER AU PLUS TARD LE 1ER NOVEMBRE, DATE A LAQUELLE COMMENCE LA PERIODE CYCLONIQUE, TOUT RETARD DANS LA DATE DE LIVRAISON ENTRAINERA UN RETARD SUPPLEMENTAIRE D'UN AN." FULL TEXT POUCHED EUR/WE.

4. EMBOFF TOLD DES LONGCHAMP THAT WE WOULD NOTIFY

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9429

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WASHINGTON IMMEDIATELY OF GOD CONCERN, AND WOULD INFORM QUAI OF WASHINGTON'S RESPONSE. WE NOTED, IN PASSING, THAT FRANCE HAD NOT RATIFIED THE OMEGA AGREEMENT AND URGED THAT QUAI MOVE QUICKLY TO COMPLETE FRENCH CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESS LEADING TO RATIFICATION. DES LONGCHAMP SAID HE SHARED OUR VIEW OF URGENCY, BUT WAS SKEPTICAL THAT CURRENT FRENCH POLITICAL SITUATION (ELECTION OF NEW PRESIDENT AND FORMATION OF NEW GOF) WOULD PERMIT EARLY ATTENTION TO OMEGA AGREEMENT.

5. WE TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO TELL DES LONGCHAMP THAT, CONTRARY TO EARLIER INDICATIONS FROM QUAI, WE NOW UNDERSTOOD THAT OMEGA AGREEMENT WAS AVAILABLE TO PUBLIC FROM PUBLIC PRINTER (PER CANBERRA 3078). DES LONGCHAMP REACTED WITH COMPLETE SURPRISE, SAYING THAT -- AS FAR AS HE KNEW -- AGREEMENT HAD NOT REPEAT NOT BEEN PUBLISHED. HE SAID THAT OUR INFORMATION WAS FIRST INDICATION THAT QUAI HAD RECEIVED SUGGESTING THAT OMEGA AGREEMENT WAS NOW IN PUBLIC DOMAIN IN FRANCE. HE PROMISED TO LOOK INTO THE MATTER IMMEDIATELY AND LET US KNOW THE EXACT STATUS OF THE PUBLICATION OF THE OMEGA AGREEMENT.

6. COMMENT: EMBASSY IS IN NO POSITION TO ANALYZE ACCURACY OF FRENCH COMPLAINT ABOUT DELAY IN DELIVERY OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OMEGA EQUIPMENT TO LA REUNION, ALTHOUGH WE UNDERSTAND FROM INFORMAL CONTACTS WITH WASHINGTON THAT AT LEAST SOME ELEMENTS OF FRENCH STATEMENT ARE VALID. IF, INDEED, WE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR DELAYS LEADING TO POSTPONEMENT IN START OF OMEGA STATION'S OPERATION BEYOND DATE THAT WE HAD FAVORED, AND RESULTING IN ADDITIONAL EXPENSES TO GOF, WE BELIEVE THAT USG SHOULD TAKE SPEEDY ACTION NECESSARY TO CORRECT ANY SLIPPAGE IN DELIVERY SCHEDULE OF OMEGA PARTS. LARGER U.S. INTERESTS IN ITS RELATIONS WITH FRANCE WOULD NOT BENEFIT FROM SQUABBLE WITH GOF OVER DELAY IN U.S. DELIVERY SCHEDULE. FACT THAT GOF HAS NOT YET COMPLETED RATIFICATION OF OMEGA AGREEMENT SHOULD NOT OBSCURE FACT THAT FRENCH SEEM TO

HAVE BEEN PROCEEDING WITH OMEGA INSTALLATION IN GOOD
FAITH TO MEET EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE FOR ITS OPERATION.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE PROVIDE EMBASSY WITH
RESPONSE TO QUAI AIDE MEMOIRE.
STONE

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Message Attributes

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